

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PORT L 00654 161839Z

ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05

CIAE-00 PM-03 DODE-00 /040 W

-----161948Z 097211 /73

R 161241Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6794

INFO AMEMBASSY VICTORIA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT LOUIS 0654

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT MP UK

SUBJECT: HMG CONCERN OVER STATUS OF BRITISH COMMANDER OF
SPECIAL MOBILE FORCE

1. IN COURSE COURTESY CALL JUNE 16, NEW BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER ALEC WARD MENTIONED THAT FIRST DIFFICULT PROBLEM HE WILL HAVE TO WRESTLE WITH IS FUTURE STATUS OF COLONEL BERRY, BRITISH ARMY OFFICER SECONDED HERE AS COMANDER, SPECIAL MOBILE FORCE (DEPUTY COMMANDER IS ALSO A BRITISH OFFICER). PRIME MINISTER RAMGOOLAM AND MAURITIAN GOVERNMENT IN GENERAL RELY ON THIS 400-MAN, WELL-TRAINED AND WELL-EQUIPPED FORCE AS THEIR ULTIMATE RESOURCE TO MAINTAIN INTERNAL SECURITY. IN VIEW OF RECENT COUP IN SYCHELLES (WHERE BRITISH POLICE OFFICERS WERE SECONDED) HMG IS CONCERNED THAT BRITISH OFFICERS MIGHT FIND THEMSELVES IN DIFFICULT DECISION-MAKING SITUATIONS IN CASE OF A COUP ATTEMPT OR OTHER SERIOUS DISORDERS REQUIRING INTERVENTION BY SMF. CHAIN OF COMMAND IS NOT CLEAR, THOUGH BERRY COULD SAFELY CARRY OUT ORDERS RECEIVED FROM MAURITIAN POLICE COMMISSIONER OR ACTING PRIME MINISTER IN RAMGOOLAM'S ABSENCE. BUT IN A FLUID SITUATION, WITH INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS POSSIBLY CUT, BRITISH OFFICERS COULD FIND THEMSELVES IN MIDDLE OF A TOUGH
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PORT L 00654 161839Z

SITUATION WITHOUT AUTHORITY TO ACT.

2. WARD SAID THIS SUBJECT HAS BEEN RAISED WITH RAMGOOLAM IN LONDON, BUT HE HAS NOT YET SEEN REPORT OF CONVERSATIONS. RAM APPARENTLY IS RELUCTANT TO SEE BRITISH OFFICERS REPLACED BY MAURITIAN COMMANDERS, AS HE WOULD THEN HAVE TO TRUST LATTER TO BE LOYAL TO HIM AND HIS GOVERNMENT, WHEREAS

HE HAS NO FEARS ON THAT SCORE WITH REGARD TO BRITISH. FURTHER-
MORE, BRITISH OFFICERS HERE (AND PERHAPS RAMGOOLAM AS WELL)
DO NOT BELIEVE THERE IS AS YET ANY MAURITIAN OFFICER
QUALIFIED AND CAPABLE OF COMMANDING SMF. BRITISH ALSO HAVE
LOW OPINION OF CAPABILITIES OF MAN SLATED TO REPLACE POLICE
COMMISSIONER FULENA WHEN LATTER RETIRES IN FALL.
KEELEY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PERSONNEL, POLITICAL STABILITY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PORTL00654
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770215-0659
Format: TEL
From: PORT LOUIS
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770650/aaaabrpn.tel
Line Count: 69
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: acd57c7b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2128504
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HMG CONCERN OVER STATUS OF BRITISH COMMANDER OF SPECIAL MOBILE FORCE
TAGS: PINS, PINT, MP, UK
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/acd57c7b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009